



The Kingdom of Morocco

2nd Nuclear Security Summit

Statement by H.E.Dr. EL OTMANI SAAD DINE

Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation

Session on

“Review of the Progress Made Since the 2010 Washington Summit”

Seoul, 26 March 2012

**Mr. President
Excellencies,**

The Kingdom of Morocco welcomes the holding of the 2nd Nuclear Security Summit, and thanks His Excellency President Lee Myung Bak, for convening this very important session on the “Review of the Progress Made Since the 2010 Washington Summit”.

The Kingdom of Morocco commends the holding of biennial Summits on Nuclear Security, launched by President Obama two years ago, in Washington D.C, where a comprehensive Work Plan on all Nuclear Security issues was adopted, gave rise to a new aspiration and new perspectives for peace and security. Indeed, the Washington Summit addressed key challenges that have become pressing more than ever. Nuclear and radiological terrorism is not fiction anymore. It is plausible, global, fast evolving and requires immediate coordinated international action.

**Mr. President
Excellencies,**

We are gathered once again, today, to assess the progress we made in Nuclear Security since the Washington Summit, in the implementation of its Work Plan, and to renew our political commitment to enhance nuclear security and to respond to M. Barak Obama’s call two year ago, to secure all vulnerable nuclear material, by 2014.

In this spirit, the Kingdom of Morocco has been demonstrating a continued commitment and proactive approach to advancing Nuclear Security Summit goals and Work Plan since the Washington Summit, by undertaking effective actions, aiming at strengthening Nuclear Security at the national level and enhancing the regional and international cooperation.

Indeed, Morocco’s measures to combat nuclear terrorism are inscribed in its dynamic national strategy, aiming at preventing and responding to terrorism in general. This strategy reflects the vision of His Majesty King Mohammed VI, calling for a proactive and multidimensional approach, that addresses the root causes of terrorism, through political, religious and cultural reforms, promotion of human rights, human development, and the upgrading of its legal and regulatory framework.

Consistent with its international obligations, and endeavouring to upgrade its legal, regulatory and institutional framework, Morocco is at the final stage of adopting a new Draft Law on nuclear and radiological safety and security, to regulate all applications using nuclear and other radioactive materials. Furthermore, Morocco is currently elaborating, in cooperation of the EU and US Department of Energy, a new Draft Law, to develop an export and import control system of dual-use products.

In support of the objectives of the existing international nuclear security instruments, Morocco undertook practical measures in this regard, consisting of:

- Ratifying, in March 2011, the IAEA Additional Protocol of the Safeguards Agreements it signed in 2004.
- Finalising the ratification process of the 2005 amendment to the Convention of the Physical Protection on Nuclear Material.

- Promoting, at the national level, the application of the code of conduct, on the safety and security of radioactive sources.
- Submitting, in 2011, the updated national report to the Security Council Subsidiary Committee 1540. In this regard, we welcome the UN Security Council Resolution 1977, which extends the mandate of the Committee till year 2021.

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Convinced of the importance of combating illicit trafficking and securing materials and facilities, the Kingdom of Morocco has endeavoured to strengthen its nuclear security architecture through:

- Establishing an accounting system for nuclear material and a national register for radioactive sources.
- Updating the list of establishments using radioactive sources and their inclusion in the security files of districts police.
- Strengthening physical protection of the nuclear research reactor and the security of facilities using high radioactive sources.

Morocco is confident that supporting international initiatives on nuclear security, is an efficient way to strengthen the global nuclear security regime. In particular, the Kingdom, as founding partner of the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism (GICNT) has contributed, and still contributes actively to this initiative, and implements its statement of principles, adopted during the first Rabat GICNT Plenary Meeting.

The 2011 seventh Daejeon GICNT Plenary Meeting marked an important phase in the GICNT process, by adding a Nuclear Security ‘third pillar’ on the area “Response and Mitigation”. As a valued partner of the GICNT, and having demonstrated a proactive approach to advancing the GICNT Statement of Principles, the Daejeon meeting endorsed Morocco to chair a Working Group in this focus area.

In this respect, and following the organization of two seminars on ‘prevention’ and ‘response’, under the GICNT, Morocco organized, in March 2011, in cooperation with USA, Spain, and the IAEA, an International Exercise on “Response to Malicious acts involving radioactive materials”.

In the outreach field, Morocco organized, jointly with the US, in November 2011, a two-day GICNT “Regional Outreach” Seminar, for 26 African States, aiming at raising awareness on Nuclear Security issues. The purpose of this seminar was to present the main outcomes of the Washington Summit and to promote the GICNT principles and its terms of reference.

In this same context, Morocco organised in Marrakech, from 13 to 16 February 2012, in cooperation with Spain (as Implementation and Assessment Group (IAG) Coordinator), and the US and Russia, as Co-Chairs of the initiative, the GICNT Mid-Year IAG Meeting. Six years after the adoption of the GICNT Statement of principles in Rabat, the Marrakech Meeting

elaborated and adopted, for the first time, working documents of two IAG Working Groups on Nuclear Detection and Nuclear Forensics, chaired by the Netherlands and Australia, and the Scope Document of the third Working Group on Response and Mitigation chaired by Morocco, on the basis of pertinent principles of this Statement. The outcomes of the Marrakech Meeting made a contribution to the overall of the international efforts aiming at enhancing global nuclear security.

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The Nuclear Security Summit values the essential role of human resources and capacity building. Aware of its importance, Morocco attaches the highest priority to human resources development and to the promotion of a nuclear security culture. In this regard, a National Centre for Training and Support in nuclear security has been established in cooperation with the IAEA and the USA. This new important training platform completes the sphere of action of the existing regional training centre on radiation safety, operational since 2002.

Furthermore, in addition to hosting the IAEA International Conference on the Safety of Research Reactors in November 2011, Morocco has organized several training events in nuclear safety and nuclear security, since 2010, at the national and regional levels, mainly for African and Middle Eastern countries.

Inextricably linked to Nuclear Security, is the important area related to the international dimension of CBRN risk mitigation. In this context, Morocco endeavours to address local and regional issues related to CBRN (Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear), and provided the importance of Africa as a strategic axis for Morocco, the Kingdom is hosting, since December 2011, a Regional Centre of Excellence CBRN supported by the European Union, since December 2011, for the African countries of the Atlantic coast.

The objective of this regional centre is to share best practices, and to contribute to reducing the risk of illicit nuclear trafficking, at the regional level. Several projects on capacity building are being considered for implementation, after their approval by the EU and UNICRI.

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We remain confident that the political commitment generated during the Washington Summit, and renewed in Seoul, will give an impetus for enhancing our national infrastructure and capabilities, on the basis of the three pillars of nuclear security: nuclear detection, nuclear forensics, and response and mitigation; and we will strive to reinforce our international cooperation.

The participation of the Kingdom of Morocco to this Summit reflects its full and sincere commitment in its contribution to those international efforts, in accordance with the vision of His Majesty King Mohammed VI, calling for a reinforcement of multilateralism, to preserve a sustainable nuclear security and to strengthen the IAEA. It is our hope to see the Nuclear Security Summit evolving and becoming a future landmark institution, in Nuclear Security.

I thank you very much.

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